



March 2, 2015

HB 6276, An Act Concerning Training For Health Care Professionals In Youth Suicide Prevention

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As Director of Professional Affairs of the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA), I am writing **in opposition of HB 6276, An Act Concerning Training For Health Care Professionals In Youth Suicide Prevention.**

While CPA is very supportive of continuing education for psychologists, and strongly supported the implementation of CEU requirements for psychologist licensure which went into effect last October, we do not support the implementation of specialty area CEU requirements.

As doctoral level providers, psychologists' education and training includes a minimum of 4 years of academic and clinical work, as well as a one-year full-time pre-doctoral internship. Licensure in Connecticut requires an additional one-year full-time post-doctoral fellowship. All of this clinical training is under the direction of at least one licensed psychologist supervisor.

Throughout their training, psychologists learn about depression, suicide assessment and prevention, and family interventions. If a psychologist intends to work with children and youth, that psychologist has an obligation to continue their education in issues relevant to children and youth. At the same time, clinicians who do not work with children and youth and do not feel comfortable with their level of expertise would have an ethical obligation to refer out to another provider, as with any particular population or disorder. We cannot reasonably expect every psychologist to receive training in every specialty area, particularly when many of the areas are not relevant to the psychologist's practice.

Accordingly, the Connecticut Psychological Association urges you to **oppose HB 6276.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Traci Cipriano, PhD'.

Traci Cipriano, JD, PhD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist